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Security Council

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Letter dated 8 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

At a consultative meeting of members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union on 21 May 2011 in Addis Ababa, the members of the two Councils adopted a joint communiqué (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and the attached communiqué could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baso **Sangqu**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of South Africa to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 8 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the consultative meeting between members of the Security Council of the United Nations and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union

1. The members of the Security Council of the United Nations and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union held their 5th consultative meeting at the Headquarters of the African Union, in Addis Ababa, on 21 May 2011.

2. Reaffirming the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and the mandate of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union with regard to the promotion of peace and security in Africa, as well as the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the role of regional arrangements in the settlement of disputes among and within their member States, and also recalling the communiqués of their previous consultative meetings held between 2007 and 2010, the meeting, again, reviewed matters of common interest, in particular ways and means of strengthening the partnership between the two institutions consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa.

3. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union assessed their cooperation with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, including the maintenance of constitutional order, the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Africa.

4. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union expressed concern at the situation of women and children in conflict situations and post-conflict contexts; they stressed the need to effectively address the problem of sexual violence in armed conflicts, to investigate crimes committed against women and children and to ensure that their perpetrators are brought to justice. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union also recognized the positive role that women have played in the peaceful resolution of conflicts and underscored the need to strengthen women's participation in peace mediation and political processes.

Strengthening of methods of work and cooperation

5. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union welcomed the establishment, on 1 July 2010, of the United Nations Office to the African Union, which integrates the mandates of the former Liaison Office, the Peacekeeping Support Team, the Planning Team for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as well as the support elements of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) Joint Support and Coordination Mechanism, as a concrete step in the strengthening of

cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and the Commission of the African Union.

6. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union reiterated the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing of the African Union's peace and security capability. They noted the report of the African Union-United Nations panel (A/63/666-S/2008/813) as an important contribution towards the overall efforts to enhance the capacity of the African Union in undertaking peacekeeping operations. They look forward to the reports that the Chairperson of the African Union Commission and the Secretary-General of the United Nations intend to submit on their respective strategic visions of the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations. They agreed on the need to implement their previous agreement to further consider undertaking collaborative field missions, on a case-by-case basis and as appropriate, in respect of selected peacekeeping operations, in order to enhance synergy in monitoring assessment of results and response strategies.

7. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union welcomed the inaugural meeting of the United Nations-African Union joint task force on peace and security, held in New York, on 25 September 2010, as well as the second meeting of the task force, which took place in Addis Ababa, on 4 February 2011. They encouraged the task force to focus on strategic and country-specific issues of the African continent that are of interest to both organizations.

Libya

8. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union expressed their deep concern over the continuation of violence in Libya, and reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of Security Council resolutions 1970 (2011) and 1973 (2011) to ensure protection of civilians in Libya.

9. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union demanded the immediate establishment of a ceasefire and a complete end to violence and all attacks against, and abuses of, civilians, and a solution to the crisis which responds to the legitimate demands of the Libyan people. They stressed the need for such a ceasefire to be credible and verifiable, and encouraged the African Union and the United Nations, as well as other stakeholders, to spare no efforts in achieving this objective.

10. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union stressed the need for a political solution to the conflict in Libya. In this respect, and recalling the provisions of paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), they welcomed the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Libya, Abdel-Elah Mohamed Al-Khatib, and those of the African Union ad hoc High-level Committee on Libya in the context of the African Union road map. They agreed to continue their efforts in support of the United Nations and in accordance with paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 1973 (2011) to find a solution to the crisis.

11. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union expressed serious concern over the deteriorating humanitarian

situation in the country, and called for full compliance with human rights and international humanitarian law and the creation of the required conditions for the delivery of assistance to all needy populations across Libya. They stressed the need to provide specific support to the African migrant workers living in Libya, including those seeking to leave the country.

Côte d'Ivoire

12. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union welcomed the inauguration of President Alassane Dramane Ouattara, which took place today, 21 May 2011, in Yamoussoukro. They commended the valuable roles played by the United Nations, the African Union, through the High-level panel for the resolution of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in resolving the Ivorian post-election conflict. They called for their continued vigilance, engagement and coordination in the stabilization and peace consolidation in Côte d'Ivoire.

13. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union stressed their readiness to assist the Ivorian State in rebuilding its institutions and completing the unfinished aspects of the peace process, including the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, security sector reform and the other reunification tasks.

14. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union reaffirmed their full support to the Ivorian authorities' efforts aimed at promoting justice and reconciliation, including the planned establishment of a truth, dialogue and reconciliation commission. They further welcomed President Ouattara's commitment to investigate alleged human rights violations during the post-electoral crisis.

Sudan

15. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union welcomed the successful referendum conducted in South Sudan in January 2011, and commended the Parties for their commitment. They appealed to all members of the international community to provide the requisite support to facilitate the emergence of two viable States living side-by-side, in peace and good neighbourliness, and working together to meet common challenges. They urged the Parties to reach, under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and its Chair, former President Thabo Mbeki, agreement on outstanding Comprehensive Peace Agreement issues and post-Comprehensive Peace Agreement arrangements, and stressed the importance of inclusive, timely and credible popular consultation processes, in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

16. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union expressed deep concern over increased violence in the Abyei Area. They called on both parties to implement and adhere to recent security agreements and to urgently reach an agreement on Abyei's post-Comprehensive Peace Agreement status. In this regard, they acknowledged the July 2009 ruling by The Hague's Permanent Court of Arbitration, which defines the borders of Abyei.

17. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union expressed concern at the violence and insecurity in Darfur. They

emphasized the importance of reaching an inclusive and comprehensive solution in Darfur, based on a positive outcome of the Doha peace talks, and called on the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements to contribute to the creation of the necessary enabling environment for the Darfur Political Process, including: (i) civil and political rights of participants such that they can exercise their views without fear of retribution; (ii) freedom of speech and assembly, to allow for open consultations; (iii) freedom of movement of participants and UNAMID; (iv) proportional participation among Darfurians; (v) freedom from harassment, arbitrary arrest and intimidation; and (vi) freedom from interference by the Government or armed movements. They saluted the efforts of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and UNAMID.

Somalia

18. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union expressed their grave concern at the continued instability in Somalia, which has led to a multitude of problems, including a dire humanitarian situation, compounded by drought, continued suffering of the Somali populations, terrorism, the recruitment and use of child soldiers, acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia and hostage-taking, and reiterated the need for a comprehensive strategy to encourage the establishment of peace and stability in Somalia through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders and in line with the Djibouti Agreement. They urged all Somali stakeholders to participate in the upcoming consultative meeting to be held in Mogadishu and play a role in finalizing arrangements for ending the transition in August 2011. They called upon all opposition groups to lay down their arms and join the peace process.

19. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union commended the progress made by AMISOM and the Somali Security Forces in consolidating security and stability in Mogadishu, and recognized the significant sacrifices made by these Forces. They stressed the importance of predictable, reliable and timely resources for AMISOM. They called upon the international community to make contributions urgently to AMISOM, without caveats. They noted the recommendations on Somalia of the African Union Peace and Security Council of 15 October 2010.

20. The members of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union underlined the importance of a comprehensive response to tackle piracy and its underlying causes and, in this respect, noted the request to the Secretary-General to report on the protection of Somali natural resources and waters, and on alleged illegal fishing and illegal dumping, including of toxic substances, in line with paragraph 7 of resolution 1976 (2011).

21. The next consultative meeting will be held at the Headquarters of the United Nations, in New York, no later than July 2012.

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Letter dated 10 June 2011 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and to Security Council resolution 1981 (2011), by which the Council authorized the extension, up to 30 June 2011, of the temporary redeployment from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to UNOCI of three infantry companies, one aviation unit comprising two military utility helicopters and three armed helicopters with crews. In that same resolution, the Council requested me to provide it with an updated analysis and recommendations on the inter-mission cooperation arrangements by 15 June 2011.

In that regard, the Office of Military Affairs of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations conducted a military capability study in Côte d'Ivoire from 21 to 29 April 2011 and in Liberia from 3 to 6 May 2011. In addition, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations-led interdepartmental assessment mission, which visited Côte d'Ivoire from 1 to 14 May 2011, conducted a threat assessment that is pertinent to the issue of the military utility and armed helicopters referred to above.

The military capability study concluded that the two military utility helicopters would be required in Liberia in light of the upcoming Liberian national referendum and elections, which are scheduled to take place in August and the autumn of 2011, respectively. The military utility helicopters will therefore be returned to UNMIL before 30 June 2011. At the same time, given the extremely fragile security situation in Côte d'Ivoire and the high risk of renewed conflict or violence that would require adequate troop transportation capacity for the rapid deployment of the UNOCI force reserve, the Secretariat is exploring various options to deploy a replacement unit to UNOCI, at least for the duration of the legislative elections. This capacity would enable the force both to operate and react in a timely manner to incidents throughout the country and consolidate troop positions in the most sensitive areas, particularly in Abidjan and the west.

I therefore intend to ask Member States for a replacement unit comprising two military utility helicopters under the already authorized UNOCI troop reinforcements and would be grateful if members of the Security Council could support this approach. At the same time, taking into account the recent challenges in securing military utility helicopters from Member States, it would be prudent to keep open the option whereby, if the situation in Liberia permits, military utility

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helicopters from UNMIL could again be redeployed to UNOCI to meet specific needs, based on coordination between the two missions.

Both the military capability study and the threat assessment determined that temporary deployment of the three armed helicopters to Côte d'Ivoire is still required beyond 30 June 2011. As already conveyed in my letter to the Security Council dated 11 May 2011, the security situation in the country, especially in Abidjan and the west, remains extremely precarious. The Forces républicains de Côte d'Ivoire, which assumed responsibility for restoring security, remain a motley bunch and are wrestling with discipline-related challenges as well as command and control issues. There is still a high risk of renewed armed conflict and continued attacks against the civilian population, including with heavy weapons. These could be initiated by pro-Gbagbo militias, mercenaries and ex-Forces de défense et de sécurité (FDS) personnel routed from Abidjan, who are attempting to regroup in pro-Gbagbo strongholds in the west; the Young Patriots who still have access to arms; elements of the "invisible commandos" who have gone into hiding since their leader was killed; as well as the many ex-Republican Guard soldiers who have melted into the civilian population in Abidjan still carrying weapons. At the time of the assessment mission, heavy weapons were still being used in the Yopougon district of Abidjan. These heavy weapons, as well as those in the hands of the unaccounted-for ex-Republican Guard soldiers, have yet to be retrieved. In addition, cross-border movement of mercenaries, militias and arms has become a direct security threat to both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, and increased the risk of a spillover of violence into Liberia.

The three armed helicopters provide high deterrent value and response capacity against the many spoilers in Côte d'Ivoire, both to prevent their regrouping in strongholds in western Côte d'Ivoire and to deter cross-border movement of militias and mercenaries. The armed helicopters give UNOCI the mobility required to ensure adequate monitoring of the borders and the surrounding areas, as well as a timely response to anticipated cross-border incidents and other militia and mercenary activities in the west. In that regard, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Ukraine for its critical contribution.

UNMIL and UNOCI agreed that the three armed helicopters should be retained in UNOCI for now, on the understanding that these assets will be tasked to operate mainly in western Côte d'Ivoire, particularly along border areas for special reconnaissance and deterrence operations. Specifically, the two missions have agreed on a schedule under which the armed helicopters would conduct three special border reconnaissance operations per week during the month of June, with new schedules to be decided on for each subsequent month. The information gathered from these operations will be used by both missions. In addition, the armed helicopters will be used to provide deterrence from the air in support of specific ground operations, where necessary, and in this regard, the helicopters would undertake missions in support of specific UNMIL operations, if required. The Secretariat has also requested UNOCI to explore the possibility of stationing the armed helicopters at an airfield in western Côte d'Ivoire. UNOCI will provide regular updates which could be shared with members of the Security Council if they so request. During the last 10 days of the month of May, UNOCI conducted a total of eight air reconnaissance missions along the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia border, three of which were undertaken by the armed helicopters and five by other mission air assets. On 21 May, senior military officers from UNMIL visited UNOCI to follow

up on earlier videoconference discussions between the two missions and the Secretariat on ways of further strengthening coordinated actions to address cross-border issues. Attached is a summary of the main actions agreed upon between the two missions in this regard.

In light of the above, I recommend that the Security Council authorize a further extension of the temporary redeployment of the three armed helicopters from UNMIL to UNOCI on the understanding that the Secretariat will conduct a further review at the end of September. Meanwhile, based on regular updates on the usage of the three armed helicopters to be submitted by UNOCI, the Secretariat will keep the matter under constant review.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

Annex

Summary of main actions agreed upon between UNMIL and UNOCI

Mapping: Collaboration to develop an agreed map of the border and an agreed list of all official and unofficial crossing sites.

Deployment: Information-sharing regarding dispositions along the border of military, police and Government agencies. UNOCI redeployments of a company each to Toulépleu and Tabou are ongoing. The area in between these two locations will be covered by long-range patrols. One company will also be deployed on a temporary basis to Tai, as soon as support arrangements permit. UNOCI considers that deploying troops on a permanent basis in Tai is not feasible, given the logistical constraints. UNMIL has deployed additional troops to the border area during the conflict and prepared for the deployment of an additional team of military observers to Fish Town, River Gee County. UNMIL civilian police, including formed police units, and Liberian authorities, including the Liberian National Police, the Emergency Response Unit and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, have strengthened their presence in the border area with a focus on hot spots and important border crossings.

Patrols: UNMIL and UNOCI patrol programmes along the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia border should be shared and coordinated. Communications between patrols should be strengthened with a view to enabling warnings to be passed, deconflicting patrol activity, sharing patrol reports and establishing greater cooperation between units on the ground. As extensive foot patrolling on both sides of the border is at times hampered by access constraints, UNMIL covers remote and inaccessible areas through air-inserted foot patrols. At present, UNOCI does not conduct air-inserted foot patrols along the border but is exploring the possibility of doing so in the near future.

Information: All operational information will be shared. Joint situational assessments and information collection requirements are to be shared with the other mission.

Meetings: The conduct of concurrent patrols by UNMIL and UNOCI along the Liberian-Ivorian border ("Operation Mayo") should be reinvigorated, and their frequency and level of participation increased.

Liaison: Existing liaison arrangements to enhance information-sharing and coordination will be strengthened. Further exchange of liaison officers between units from battalion level and upwards must be considered, including for the purpose of ensuring effective information-sharing arrangements between military observers and field offices from both missions. Regular videoconferences will be conducted between UNOCI and UNMIL.

Coordination of air assets: The MI-24s will conduct frequent patrols along the border based on joint tasking that meets the requirements of both missions.

River patrols: The possibility of conducting patrols by boat on the Cavalla River will be scoped, although the logistical challenge should not be underestimated.

In undertaking the above activities, UNMIL and UNOCI should be able to strengthen cooperation arrangements with the respective national authorities, as appropriate.